

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124850
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TO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124850

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WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, CU, SZ, CZ

SUBJECT: US INTERESTS SECTION IN SWISS EMBASSY IN HAVANA

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING NOTE TO THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE CUBANS ARE MAKING
A SIMILAR REQUEST TO THE CZECH GOVERNMENT.

2. AFTER COMPLIMENTARY OPENING QUOTE

A. THE UNITED STATES AND CUBAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING INTERESTS SECTIONS
IN THE EMBASSIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROTECTING POWERS IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 124850

HAVANA AND WASHINGTON. WE HAVE KEPT THE SWISS EMBASSIES
IN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA ADVISED OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AS
THEY DEVELOPED. NOTES WERE EXCHANGED IN NEW YORK ON MAY 30
BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER TORRAS FOR CUBA AND ACTING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS FOR THE U.S. AGREEING TO THE
OPENING OF SUCH INTERESTS SECTIONS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL
OF THE SWISS AND CZECH GOVERNMENTS.

B. THE FORMAL STATUS AND OPERATIONS OF THE INTERESTS SECTIONS WE ENVISAGE ARE BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH SECTIONS IN A NUMBER OF NEAR EASTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING

A FORMER US INTERESTS SECTION IN THE SWISS EMBASSY IN ALGIERS. THIS WOULD INVOLVE RESUMPTION OF THE USE OF THE US RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY BUILDINGS BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE SWISS EMBASSY IN HAVANA. BUILDINGS WILL FLY FLAGS AND BEAR EMBLEMS OF PROTECTING POWER.

C. DURING DISCUSSIONS ON ARRANGEMENT FOR EXCHANGING INTERESTS SECTIONS AND INVIOABILITY OF BUILDINGS, CUBANS INSISTED THAT ENTRY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE HEADS OF THE INTERESTS SECTIONS. WE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS IMPLICIT IN THE RIGHT OF INTERESTS SECTIONS TO HAVE THEIR OWN CODES AND DIPLOMATIC COURIERS, BUT AGREED TO THIS CONDITION SUBJECT TO SWISS CONCURRENCE.

D. IF AGREEABLE TO THE SWISS GOVERNMENT, WE PLAN TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM TO HAVANA IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR SERRA ABOUT THE OPERATIONS OF A US INTERESTS SECTION IN HIS EMBASSY AND TO DISCUSS A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME FOR RESUMING AMERICAN OCCUPANCY OF THE AMERICAN PROPERTIES IN HAVANA, AS WELL AS OTHER PRACTICAL DETAILS.

E. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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PAGE 03 STATE 124850

REQUESTS APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF SWITZERLAND TO THE OPENING OF A US INTERESTS SECTION IN THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN HAVANA AS SOON AS CONVENIENT FOR THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

F. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TAKES THIS OCCASION TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF SWITZERLAND FOR ITS DILIGENT AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN CUBA SINCE 1961 AND EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE THAT AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THE US INTERESTS SECTION IN THE SWISS EMBASSY IN HAVANA WILL MAINTAIN A CORRECT AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SWISS AMBASSADOR AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF. END QUOTE.

3. FYI BOTH AMBASSADOR PROBST HERE AND AMBASSADOR SERRA IN HAVANA HAVE ASSURED US OF THEIR DESIRE TO COOPERATE REGARDING A US INTERESTS SECTION IN HAVANA. WE HAVE AGREED WITH CUBANS TO MAKE PARALLEL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ON INTERESTS SECTIONS ONLY AFTER CONCURRENCE OF PROTECTING

POWERS OBTAINED. BECAUSE OF INTENSE PRESS SPECULATIONS
HERE WE WOULD APPRECIATE A SWISS RESPONSE BY THURSDAY IF
AT ALL POSSIBLE. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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